

SENATE, No. 2582

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 15, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Corrado

SYNOPSIS

Revises psychologist training requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/30/2020)

1 AN ACT revising psychologist training requirements and amending
2 P.L.1966, c.282.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 17 of P.L.1966, c.282 (C.45:14B-17) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 17. Any person applying to the board, after January 1, 1968, may
10 be admitted to an assembled examination if **[he]** the applicant meets
11 the qualifications set forth in **[section 14(a), (b) and (c)]** subsections
12 (a), (b), and (c) of section 14 of P.L.1966, c.282 (C.45:14B-14) and
13 provides evidence satisfactory to the board that **[he]** the applicant:

14 (a) Has received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in
15 psychology from a recognized educational institution, or in lieu of
16 **[such]** that degree, a doctoral degree in a closely allied field if it is the
17 opinion of the board that the training required therefor is substantially
18 similar, or has otherwise had training in psychology deemed
19 equivalent by the board;

20 (b) Has engaged for the equivalent of at least **[2]** two years full
21 time, at least **[1]** one year of which was subsequent to **[his]** the
22 applicant receiving the doctoral degree, in professional **[employment]**
23 experience in the practice of psychology under the supervision of a
24 licensed psychologist or of one clearly eligible for licensure in the
25 opinion of the board, which **[employment]** experience the board
26 deems sufficient to warrant its opinion that the applicant is competent
27 to engage in the practice of psychology as a licensed psychologist,
28 subject to **[his]** the applicant satisfying the other requirements for
29 **[such]** that license specified in **[this act]** P.L.1966, c.282 (C.45:14B-1
30 et seq.). In the case of a person applying to the board after October 1,
31 2020, or six months after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
32 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), whichever is sooner, the
33 two years of full time professional experience required by this
34 subsection, or any portion thereof, may be completed prior to the
35 applicant receiving a doctoral degree. An applicant who has applied to
36 the board, but who is not yet licensed by the effective date of
37 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), may
38 update the application to apply professional experience earned prior to
39 the applicant receiving a doctoral degree to the professional experience
40 requirement.

41 (c) The New Jersey Board of Psychological Examiners shall
42 promulgate regulations to implement the changes in the experience
43 requirements of subsection (b) of this section effected by
44 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
45 (cf: P.L.1966, c.282, s.17)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6 The bill updates the training requirements for psychologists.
7 Current law states that two years of professional employment is
8 required of an applicant to qualify for licensure from the State Board
9 of Psychological Examiners (the “board”). Under the bill, the term
10 “employment” is changed to “experience” to account for professional
11 opportunities that may not have entailed employment.

12 Current law also requires at least one year of the professional
13 employment to be completed after receiving a doctoral degree. Under
14 the bill, individuals applying for licensure after October 1, 2020, or six
15 months after the effective date of the bill, whichever is sooner, may
16 complete the required two years of full time professional experience,
17 or any portion thereof, prior to receiving the requisite doctoral degree.

18 The bill also provides that an applicant who has applied to the
19 board but is not yet licensed by the effective date of the bill may
20 update the application for licensure with professional experience
21 earned prior to the applicant receiving a doctoral degree.